IV.

8122. aa

AN OLD

PARLIAMENT's

Laſt WILL *and* TESTAMENT.

BRITISH MUSEUM

A TRUE

COPY

OF THE

Laſt Will and Teſtament

Of an Old Deceas'd

K. Great Britain. — Commons, House of

PARLIAMENT.

Carefully taken, and exactly tranſcrib'd from an ancient MANUSCRIPT.

London: Printed for *A. Moor*, near St. *Paul's*. 1722.

B 15/3

COPY

Last Will and Testament

BRITISH MUSEUM

Carefully taken, and exactly collated from an ancient MANUSCRIPT.

An Old Parliament's laſt Will and Teſtament.

In the Name of God, Amen.

WE, *the* COMMONS *of* Great Britain *in Parliament aſſembled, conſidering the* mortal Condition *of all* ſublunary Things, *and finding, by many* woful Symptoms, *our* own viſible Decay, *and the Proſpect of* our approaching Diſſolution; *being, nevertheleſs, of ſound and perfect Mind and Memory, tho' wonderfully weak, languiſhing and unſound, as to our bodily Plight and Condition, do make, ordain, and conſtitute this our* laſt WILL *and* TESTAMENT: *And we do hereby ordain, conſtitute and appoint, That* this *ſhall be our laſt* Will *and* Teſtament, *to all* Intents *and* Purpoſes, *hereby revoking and diſannulling all* former Wills *or* Teſtaments, *by* us *heretofore at any Time made or conſtituted.*

Impr'. VVe

Impr' WE give and bequeath our Souls (if we have any) to him that made them; humbly hoping, That if there ſhou'd be ſuch a Thing as a *future Reckoning*, a *State of Rewards* and *Puniſhments*, Regard will be had to the *high Station* and *Dignity* of a *Britiſh Parliament*, and that *We* ſhall have the Privilege of *being try'd by our* PEERS.

Item. WE give and bequeath our Bodies to the *Britiſh* Nation, our common Parent, from whence we receiv'd them; having, nevertheleſs, great Hope, Expectation and Aſſurance, of a ſpeedy Reſurrection. And tho' we muſt acknowledge ourſelves to be very corrupt and putrified, having long languiſh'd under many foul Diſeaſes, eſpecially under a moſt *peſtilential Infection* for theſe four Years laſt paſt; yet we don't for that Reaſon deſpair of our Reſurrection, inaſmuch as we receiv'd that Corruption, in a great Meaſure, from our Original Parents. And conſidering farther, That, according to the Laws of natural Philoſophy, all Bodies muſt putrify after Burial, before they can recover new Vigour and riſe again, we think we may the ſooner expect our Reſurrection, being already ſufficiently putrified before our Diſſolution.

Item. WE hereby conſtitute and appoint the Right Honourable *Bibliothecarius*, and the Honourable *Nummarius*, Joint-Executors of this our laſt WILL and TESTAMENT; having had many pregnant Proofs of their Capacity and Fidelity, and all other Qualifications requiſite for ſo great a Truſt.

Item. WE give and bequeath to our ſaid Executors all our political and judicial Power, and Vertue, whether of Legiſlation or Impeachment, or whatever doth appertain unto us by Ancient Hereditary Right, or by our own infallible Votes and Conſent, to have, hold,

hold, and Execute the ſame from this Day forward, till our Reſurrection from the Dead.

Item. We give and aſſign to our ſaid Executors, the whole management, Power, and application of all Publick Moneys till our Reſurrection as aforeſaid; provided they employ the ſame, as far as ſhall be neceſſary for our Reſtoration.

Item. We give and bequeath to *J*——— *A*——*y* Eſq; Sir *G*——— *C*——*ll*, *R*——*t*, *K*———*t*, Eſq; and all our beloved Brethren, the late Directors of the *S. S.* Company, all and every the Sum and Sums of Money, Bank-Notes, Bank, or other Stock, Lands, Goods, or Chattels, poſſeſſed by them, or any of them Reſpectively, or by any other Perſon or Perſons in truſt for them, to have, hold, and enjoy for themſelves and their Poſterity for ever, without being Subject, to any farther Scrutiny, Examination, Inolet, or Penalty whatever by Parliament or otherwiſe, provided nevertheleſs that they, and each of them, ſhall never hereafter make any diſcoveries how far they acted by our Directions and Advice, or how far we are Intereſted in their ſeveral Tranſactions, Provided alſo that the ſaid *R*——*t K*——*t*, Eſq; ſhall never hereafter preſume to return to *Great-Britain*, contrary to our Orders and Inſtructions.

Item. With theſe Proviſo's, We more-over give unto all the aforeſaid Gentlemen, a Plenary and Parliamentary Pardon, and Abſolution for all the falſe Oaths they may have taken, in Relation to their Eſtates and Effects, *&c.*

Item. We give and bequeath to the preſent Proprietors in the *S. S.* Company, all the Profits and Advantages, that ſhall ariſe, from all, and every Branch of Trade

Trade carry'd on, or intended to be carry'd on by that illuſtrious Company.

Item. We give and bequeath to the generous Annuitants in particular, thoſe worthy Friends, who kindly lent their Money on publick Emergencies, upon Parliamentary Credit, all the encreaſe of Profit and Advantage, that they ſhall at any time make of their Stock, tho' it ſhould riſe again to a Thouſand *per Cent.* And we do not perceive why Stock, tho' never ſo Dead, may not riſe again, as well as we our ſelves, who are in the ſame low expiring Condition.

Item. We give and bequeath to the Profeſſors of the Law, our hearty Friends, and Zealous Advocates, full Seven Years Practice, which we have provided for them out of the Fruitful Loyns of Stocks and Subſcriptions.

Item. We give and bequeath to all our remoter Kindred, Projectors, Schemeſters, and Authors of Bubbles, and Subſcriptions, the comfortable Subſiſtence of an Act Indemnity.

Item. We give and bequeath to the great and opulent City of *London*, our beloved Metropolis, a Confirmation of all their Charters, an undiſturb'd Poſſeſſion of *Exchange-Alley*, the free uſe of the River Thames, all the Toll-Benefits of *London-Bridge*, and the ſole Occupation of St. *Paul's* Church; provided they never preſume to trouble their Superiors with Petitions, but Pay their Taxes and Cuſtoms, and mind their own Shops and Employments.

Item. We give and bequeath to the Clergy of the *Church of England*, free Liberty to read the Bible, ſay their Prayers, and Preach on Sundays and other Holidays, provided they preſume not to meddle with Parliaments

ments and Politicks, or call in Question our Eccleſiaſtick Authority.

Item. Out of our great Regard for the improvement of Learning, and the Encouragement of the liberal Arts and Sciences, We give and bequeath to the two flouriſhing Univerſities of this Kingdom, all the neat Profits, and Advantages, which they ſhall ever be able to make of true Loyalty, pure Religion, or real Chriſtianity: Over and beſides all which we have allotted them, ſeveral unſpeakable Privileges, ſo long as they ſhall vigorouſly Teach, and Inculcate the Doctrine of *Paſſive-Obedience* to the preſent Powers, and no longer.

Item. We give and bequeath to the *Diſſenting Proteſtants* of this Kingdom, of all Sects and Denominations, whether they be *Presbyterians*, *Anabaptiſts*, *Independents*, *Quakers*, *Arrians*, *Socinians*, *Free-Thinkers*, or *Deiſts*) all the Salutary Fruits and wholeſome effects of the ſeveral Acts paſs'd for theſe Seven Years laſt paſt, in Relation to Religion: Alſo a perfect Immunity from all Obligations of Creeds, Articles, Canons, or Conformity; and a free Licence and Toleration to Act defenſively or offenſively, *Calamis Languis*, againſt their common Enemy the *Church of England*; and furthermore to believe or disbelieve, to ſay or unſay any thing whatſoever, as it ſhall appear to them moſt convincing or edifying for the time being, provided always it carries along with it a Face of Sincerity.

Item. We give and bequeath to the whole Commonalty or People of *England*, a good and ſufficient Portion of Want and Poverty, the beſt and ſtrongeſt ſupports of

Labour and Induſtry; having ourſelves diligently removed from them what we know to be the Bane of Morality, the Poiſon of Religion, the Root of Idleneſs, and in ſhort the Parent of all Evil *viz.* their Money. We have often been very ſenſibly Touch'd at the great Reproach, which foreign Nations have long caſt upon the People of *England* for want of Invention; and having duly, and maturely conſider'd that their dullneſs in that particular, might proceed from the great abundance of their Wealth and Proſperity (neceſſity being juſtly ſtil'd the Mother of Invention) we have, out of an earneſt deſire to wipe off ſuch a National Reflection, and to improve the inventive Faculty of our Country-men, which may tend to encreaſe the *Britiſh* Manufactures) carefully ſettled and entail'd upon the whole People and their Poſterity, a good competent Fund of Neceſſity for the purpoſes aforeſaid.

Item. We give and bequeath to the Minority of this Houſe, the malignant Members, that have all along audaciouſly oppos'd our Deſigns, harangued againſt our Projects, and Voted againſt our Meaſures, nothing in the World but an airy Poſſeſſion of Fame, together with the thin, ſlender Appurtenances of Praiſe, Applauſe, and Reputation.

Item. We give and bequeath to our ſeveral and reſpective Friends, Stewards, or Agents full Power, Licence, and Authority out of our Moneys, and Eſtates, to diſburſe, diſpence, and diſtribute in the ſeveral Counties, Cities, and Boroughs of *England*, to the Sum of 1000*l.* or 1500*l. per Member*; not to repair the Damage we have done them (for that is irreparable) no, nor to Pray us out of Purgatory; but

but to procure and aſcertain our immediate Reſurrection.

Item. We give and bequeath to the ſeveral Counties, Cities, and Boroughs of *England*, a Parliamentary ecurity, (and in ſuch a Caſe as this they may believe us) that, provided they will Reſtore us this once, neither they nor any of them, their Heirs or Succeſſors, (if we can help it) ſhall ever hereafter have the trouble, fatigue, buſtle and expence, of chooſing and electing many new Parliaments.

FINIS.

ber to procure and ascertain our immediate Reliance

BRITISH
8 OCT
MUSEUM